

Department of the Army, DoD

§ 578.18

In the case of a member killed or wounded, as described in paragraph (b) of this section, on or after December 7, 1941 and before November 30, 1993, the Secretary of the Army shall award the Purple Heart under provisions of paragraph (a) of this section in each case which is known to the Secretary before such date or for which an application is made to the Secretary in such manner as the Secretary requires.

(c) A Purple Heart will be issued to the next of kin of each person entitled to a posthumous award. Issue will be made automatically by the CG, USA HRC, upon receiving a report of death indicating entitlement.

(d) Upon written application to NPRC (see § 578.16(a)(3)) award may be made to any member of the Army, who during World War I, was awarded a Meritorious Service Citation Certificate signed by the Commander in Chief, American Expeditionary Forces, or who was authorized to wear wound chevrons. Posthumous awards to personnel who were killed or died of wounds after April 5, 1917 will be made to the appropriate next of kin upon application to the CG, USA HRC (see § 578.3(c) for address).

(e) Any member of the Army who was awarded the Purple Heart for meritorious achievement or service, as opposed to wounds received in action, between December 7, 1941 and September 22, 1943, may apply for award of an appropriate decoration instead of the Purple Heart.

(f) For those who became Prisoners of War during World War II, the Korean War and after April 25, 1962, the Purple Heart will be awarded to individuals wounded while prisoners of foreign forces, upon submission by the individual to the Department of the U.S. Army of an affidavit that is supported by a statement from a witness, if this is possible. Documentation and inquiries should be directed to Commander, USA HRC (see § 578.3(c) for address).

(g) Any member of the U.S. Army who believes that he or she is eligible for the Purple Heart, but through unusual circumstances no award was made, may submit an application through military channels, to Commander, USA HRC (see § 578.3(c) for address). Application will include com-

plete documentation, to include evidence of medical treatment, pertaining to the wound.

(h) *Description.* On a purple heart within a bronze border, a profile head in relief of General George Washington in military uniform. Above the heart is a shield of General Washington's coat of arms between two sprays of leaves in green enamel. On the reserve below the shield and leaves without enamel is a raised bronze heart with the inscription "For Military Merit." The entire device is $1\frac{1}{16}$ inches in length. The medal is suspended by a rectangular-shaped loop with corners rounded from a moired silk ribbon $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length and $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in width consisting of a purple (pansy) center with white edges ($\frac{1}{8}$ -inch).

§ 578.18 Meritorious Service Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Meritorious Service Medal was established by Executive Order 11448, January 16, 1969 as amended by Executive Order 12312, July 2, 1981. It is awarded to any member of the Armed Forces of the United States or to any member of the Armed Forces of a friendly foreign nation who, has distinguished himself or herself by outstanding meritorious achievement or service under the following circumstances:

(1) After January 16, 1969, for meritorious service or achievement while serving in a non-combat area.

(2) On or after September 11, 2001, for outstanding non-combat meritorious achievement or service in a non-combat or combat area.

(b) *Description.* A Bronze medal, $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches in diameter overall, consisting of six rays issuant from the upper three points of a five-pointed star with beveled edges and containing two smaller stars defined by incised outlines; in front of the lower part of the star an eagle with wings upraised standing upon two upward curving branches of laurel tied with a ribbon between the feet of the eagle. The reverse has the encircled inscriptions "UNITED STATES OF AMERICA" and "MERITORIOUS SERVICE". The moired ribbon is $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches wide and consists of the following stripes: $\frac{1}{8}$ inch Crimson 67112; $\frac{1}{4}$ inch White 67101; center $\frac{5}{8}$ inch

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Crimson; $\frac{1}{4}$ inch White; and $\frac{1}{8}$ inch Crimson.

§ 578.19 Air Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Air Medal was established by Executive Order 9158, May 11, 1942 as amended by Executive Order 9242-A, September 11, 1942. It is awarded to any person who, while serving in any capacity in or with the U.S. Army, has distinguished himself or herself by meritorious achievement while participating in aerial flight. Awards may be made to recognize single acts of merit or heroism, or for meritorious service as described.

(1) Awards may be made for acts of heroism in connection with military operations against an armed enemy or while engaged in military operations involving conflict with an opposing armed force in which the United States is not a belligerent party, which are of a lesser degree than required for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross.

(2) Awards may be made for single acts of meritorious achievement, involving superior airmanship, which are of a lesser degree than required for award of the Distinguished Flying Cross, but nevertheless were accomplished with distinction beyond that normally expected.

(3) Awards for meritorious service may be made for sustained distinction in the performance of duties involving regular and frequent participation in aerial flight for a period of at least 6 months. In this regard, accumulation of a specified number of hours and missions will not serve as the basis for award of the Air Medal. Criteria in § 578.19(a)(1), concerning conditions of conflict are applicable to award of the Air Medal for meritorious service.

(4) Award of the Air Medal is primarily intended to recognize those personnel who are on current crewmember or non-crewmember flying status which requires them to participate in aerial flight on a regular and frequent basis in the performance of their primary duties. However, it may also be awarded to certain other individuals whose combat duties require regular and frequent flying in other than a passenger status, or individuals who perform a particularly noteworthy act while performing the function of a

crewmember, but who are not on flying status as prescribed in AR 600-106. These individuals must make a discernible contribution to the operational land combat mission or to the mission of the aircraft in flight. Examples of personnel whose combat duties require them to fly include those in the attack elements of units involved in air-land assaults against an armed enemy and those directly involved in airborne command and control of combat operations. Involvement in such activities, normally at the brigade/group level and below, serves only to establish eligibility for award of the Air Medal; the degree of heroism, meritorious achievement or exemplary service determines who should receive the award. Awards will not be made to individuals who use air transportation solely for the purpose of moving from point to point in a combat zone.

(5) Numerals, starting with 2 will be used to denote second and subsequent awards of the Air Medal.

(b) *Description.* A bronze compass rose $1\frac{1}{16}$ -inches circumscribing diameter suspended by the pointer and charged with an eagle volant carrying two lightning flashes in its talons. The points of the compass rose on the reverse are modeled with the central portion plain. The medal is suspended from a moired silk ribbon $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in length and $1\frac{3}{8}$ inches in width, composed of a band of ultramarine blue ($\frac{1}{8}$ -inch), a band of golden orange ($\frac{1}{4}$ -inch), a band of ultramarine blue ($\frac{3}{8}$ -inch), a band of golden orange ($\frac{1}{4}$ -inch), and a band of ultramarine blue ($\frac{1}{8}$ -inch), by a ring engaging the pointer. (E.O. 9158, May 11, 1942, 7 FR 3541, as amended by E.O. 9242A, September 11, 1942, 7 FR 7874).

§ 578.20 Army Commendation Medal.

(a) *Criteria.* The Army Commendation Medal (ARCOM) was established by War Department (WD) Circular 377, on December 18, 1945 (amended in DAGO 10, March 31, 1960). It is awarded to any members of the Armed Forces of the United States who, while serving in any capacity with the Army after December 6, 1941, distinguishes himself or herself by an act of heroism, extraordinary achievement, or meritorious